Since previous portable PC devices have had their microphones built directly into the body of the devices (i.e., at a location which is relatively far from the user's mouth), they have been unable to adequately provide the highest-performance speech functions. Conveniently, the present invention, in one embodiment, may build the microphone into an element of the system, such as the stylus, which the user may often already be, for instance, holding in hand, and which may already include a battery and simple electronics. Desirably, it would be quite natural for the user to simply move the stylus closer to his or her mouth, and speak into the end of the stylus. The microphone signal may then be transmitted (e.g., via an analog IR signal) to the system unit, where speech recognition and/or recording function(s) may be performed, in accordance with the principles of the present invention. Activation of the microphone and the wireless transmission circuitry may be enabled, for instance, by a button (e.g., such as button **3554** depicted in FIG. **35**) on the pen, as will be understood by those skilled in the art.

With regard to system electronics, various type(s) of computer function(s) may be packaged into any appropriate embodiment(s) of the present invention. In one example, processor **420**, along with a hard disk drive and other memory, may comprise a full "Personal Computer." In an alternative embodiment, the system may comprise a "Network Computer" or a WINDOWS® CE machine, which generally would not require a hard disk drive. Feature(s) such as specific I/O connector(s), docking connector(s), PCMCIA slot(s) and/or memory expansion, may or may not be included, depending on, for example, target market(s) and/or application(s). Also, the specific type(s) of display **202** may vary (e.g., TFT-LCD and/or DSTN-LCD), as may the size, layout, and/or key travel for keyboard **204**.

Numerous alternative embodiments of the present invention exist. Markable surface **150** might have any form and/or include any constituent material(s). Additionally, stylus **152** might operate with any number of signal(s), which recording unit **101** and/or device **100** might interpret in any number of way(s). In one example, stylus **152** might have a physical (e.g., cable) link with recording unit **101** and/or device **100**.

The flow diagrams depicted herein are just exemplary. There may be many variations to these diagrams or the steps (or operations) described therein without departing from the spirit of the invention. For instance, the steps may be performed in a differing order, or steps may be added, deleted or modified. All of these variations are considered a part of the claimed invention.

Although preferred embodiments have been depicted and described in detail herein, it will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art that various modifications, additions, substitutions and the like can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and these are therefore considered to be within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A flexibly interfaceable portable computing device, comprising:

a processor;

a display coupled to said processor and a keyboard coupled to said processor, wherein said display and said keyboard provide a first user interface to said processor;

a recording unit separate from said display, said recording unit including a working surface thereon;

said working surface being superimposable with a removable markable surface;

a stylus allowing user marking on said markable surface when said working surface is superimposed with said markable surface, said stylus providing a stroke signal and a stroke mark, said stroke signal conveying to said recording unit a section of information, said stroke mark conveying to said markable surface a visible indication of said section of information; and

said recording unit selectively coupled to said processor, wherein said recording unit, said markable surface, said stylus and said display provide a second user interface to said processor, and said display presents a user viewable dynamic image even when said markable surface is opaque.

2. The device of claim **1**, wherein said recording unit is foldably connected to said keyboard.

3. The device of claim **1**, further comprising a logic design implementation coupled to said processor, wherein said logic design implementation allows user switching among viewing modes for said display.

4. The device of claim **3**, wherein said viewing modes include portrait and landscape modes.

5. The device of claim **1**, further comprising a logic design implementation coupled to said processor, wherein said logic design implementation serves to switch among viewing modes for said display.

6. The device of claim **5**, wherein said logic design implementation switches among said viewing modes responsive to status of one or more of said keyboard and said recording unit.

7. A flexibly interfaceable portable computing device, comprising:

a processor;

a display coupled to said processor and a keyboard coupled to said processor, wherein said display and said keyboard provide a first user interface to said processor;

a recording unit separate from said display, said recording unit including a working surface thereon;

said working surface being superimposable with a removable markable surface;

a stylus allowing user marking on said markable surface when said working surface is superimposed with said markable surface, said stylus providing a stroke signal and a stroke mark, said stroke signal conveying to said recording unit a section of information, said stroke mark conveying to said markable surface a visible indication of said section of information;

said recording unit selectively coupled to said processor, wherein said recording unit, said markable surface, and said stylus provide a second user interface to said processor; and

a logic design implementation coupled to said processor, said logic design implementation serves to switch among viewing modes for said display, said viewing modes include portrait and landscape modes, and said logic design implementation switches to portrait mode when said recording unit is coupled to said processor and in use, and said logic design implementation switches to landscape mode when said keyboard is in use.

8. The device of claim **1**, wherein said recording unit includes a second display.

9. A flexibly interfaceable portable computing device, comprising:

a processor;

a display coupled to said processor and a keyboard coupled to said processor, wherein said display and said keyboard provide a first user interface to said processor;